(b) The management at Hyderabad airport is functioning according to the laid down guidelines/regulations of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and has been found satisfactory as per the latest customer satisfaction index.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It has been decided to have a comprehensive contract for carrying out the Mechanized Environmental Support Services at Hyderabad airport for substantial improvement at the cleanliness front.

Air Service Agreement With US

4. SHRIANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have reached an Air Service agreement for increasing the bilateral air traffic between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of destinations made available to the Indian carriers; and

(c) the policy for the utilization of new routes and the allocation of slots among national and private carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) India and USA have initiated a revised Air Services Agreement in January, 2005. As per this Agreement, both countries can designate any number of airlines, which in turn can operate any number of services from any point in the home country to any point in the territory of the other contracting party with full intermediate/beyond traffic rights. This Agreement thus gives access to the designated Indian carriers to any point in the USA.

(c) Detailed guidelines have been notified by Director General of Civil Aviation in this regard. These, *inter-alia,* envisage that operational plans of Air India and Indian Airlines be taken into consideration before allocation of routes among other scheduled operators. Allocation of traffic rights amongst eligible scheduled carriers would depend on the availability of traffic rights to particular countries/routes. If the total entitlements fall short of the requirements projected by the eligible airlines, inter-se allocation of

entitlements will be in the ratio of Available Seat Kilometer (ASKM) deployed by the scheduled carriers on domestic routes over the last 5 years.

Acquisition of A-380 Aircrafts

5. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to acquire the new Air Bus-380 aircraft under Indian Airlines and/or Air India's fleet acquisition and augmentation programme;

(b) if so, the details including the cost thereof; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken to provide facilities for landing, take-off and allied matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Handing over of Surat Airport to AAI

6. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR.A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with the Airports Authority of India and handed over Surat Airport to AAI for further development and operation;

(b) if so, the likely time of its completion;

(c) by when it is going to be operated; and

(d) whether any plan for expansion of the runway has been finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All development works relating to runway, apron, taxi-track, terminal building, car park etc. are expected to be completed by December, 2005.